

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS FORT MYERS REGULATORY OFFICE 1520 ROYAL PALM SQUARE BOULEVARD, SUITE 310 FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33919

Regulatory Division South Permits Branch/West Permits Section Fort Myers Regulatory Office

PUBLIC NOTICE

Permit Application No. SAJ-2004-7046(IP-JWS)

SEP 22 2004

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This district has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) as described below:

APPLICANT: Lee County Department of Transportation

1500 Monroe Street

Fort Myers, Florida 33901

<u>WATERWAY & LOCATION</u>: Freshwater-forested and freshwater-herbaceous wetlands within the Estero Bay watershed. The site is located north of Corkscrew Road, south of Alico Road, east of Three Oaks Parkway, and west of Ben Hill Griffin Parkway, Sections 22, 23, 26, and 27, Township 46 South, Range 25 East, Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida.

<u>DIRECTIONS TO SITE</u>: Take Koreshan Blvd. east to Three Oaks Parkway. Project is directly across Three Oaks Parkway.

<u>LATITUDE & LONGITUDE</u>: Latitude: 26° 27' 00" North

Longitude: 81° 46' 47" West

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: To construct a new road.

Overall: To construct a new road between Three Oaks Parkway and Ben Hill Griffin Parkway in Lee County, Florida.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to construct a new road between Three Oaks Parkway and Ben Hill Griffin Parkway. The project corridor is 25.45 acres in size with 22.70 acres of wetlands and 0.65 acres of uplands. The 22.70 acres of wetlands consist of cypress/melaleuca/exotics (17.30 acres), wet prairie (2.70 acres), and streams/open water (2.70 acres). The 0.65 acres of uplands consist of exotics. Existing roadway/right-of-way accounts for the remaining 2.10 acres.

The applicant proposes to discharge approximately 34,794.43 cubic yards of fill material into 14.38 acres of wetlands that consist of cypress (7.85

acres), wet prairie (2.70 acres), cypress/melaleuca/exotics (3.36 acres), and streams/open water (0.47 acres). In addition, the applicant proposes to excavate 13,327.60 cubic yards of material from 5.12 acres of wetlands. There will be a total of 19.50 acres of wetland impacts.

If it is determined that issuance of a permit is appropriate and compensatory mitigation is required to offset the impacts of the proposed project, the applicant has proposed to purchase 6.5 credits from the Little Pine Island Mitigation Bank. Details of the compensation plan including wetland functional analysis and adequacy of the compensation have not been finalized.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project site is within a "Core Foraging Area" (CFA) for the Wood Stork (Mycteria americana). The onsite mitigation does not appear to offset the impacts to wetland function in accordance with the SLOPES. Therefore, the Corps of Engineers has made a determination that the project "may affect" the Wood Stork.

Although no Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) was observed onsite, the area is known to support and contain suitable habitat for the species. The applicant is proposing to follow the USFWS "Standard Eastern Indigo Snake construction management plan". Therefore, the Corps has made a determination that the project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the Eastern Indigo Snake.

The project site is within the consultation area for the Florida Panther (*Puma concolor coryi*). The project is within telemetry point locations. Based on this information, the Corps has determined that the project "may affect" the Florida Panther.

The project site is within the consultation area for the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW; Picoides borealis) and RCW clusters have been identified within 5-miles of the project site. The applicant has not conducted a site-specific RCW survey for the project site. The site does not appear to contain a sufficient amount of non-exotic pine-flatwoods to support the RCW. Therefore, the Corps has made a determination that the project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker.

The Corps is unaware of any other threatened or endangered species concerns in the project area. These determinations will be coordinated with the FWS via separate letter.

 $\overline{\text{NOTE}}$: This public notice has been developed and issued based on information furnished by the applicant and has not been verified. The Corps has verified the wetland jurisdictional boundary.

<u>AUTHORIZATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES</u>: The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is currently processing an application for this project under application number: 040608-25.

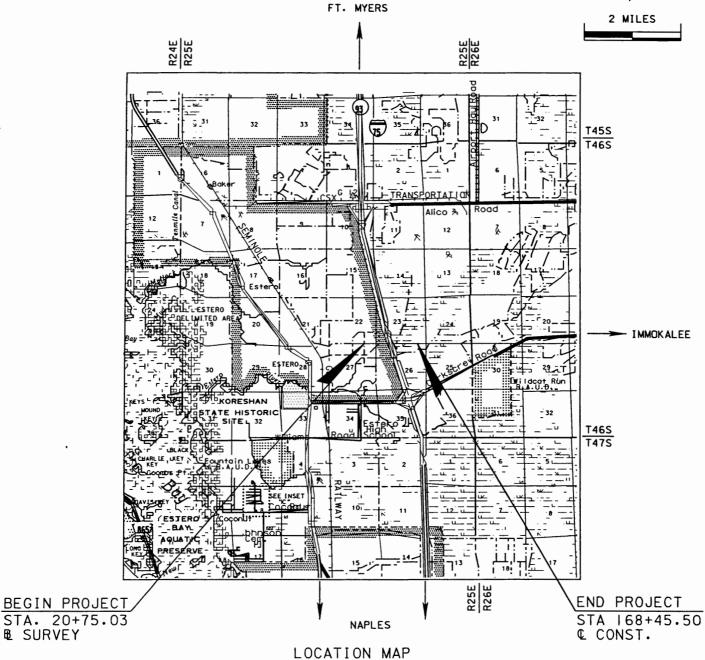
Comments and/or recommendations concerning the application should be submitted in writing to the District Engineer, in care of Mr. Jason Steele,

at the Fort Myers Regulatory Office, 1520 Royal Palm Square Blvd., Suite 310, Fort Myers, Florida 33919, by phone at 239-334-1975, Ext. 33, or via electronic mail at Jason.W.Steele@saj02.usace.army.mil within 30 days from the date of this notice.

LEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

COUNTY ID NO. 5021 LEE COUNTY KORESHAN BLVD.





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Project: Koreshan Blvd Extension

File: <u>SAJ-2004-7046(IP-JWS)</u>

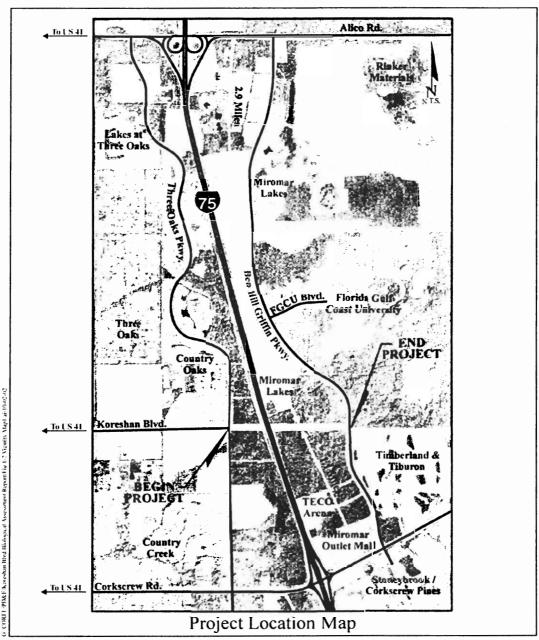
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OF TRANSPORTATION

PROJECT LOCATION
MAP

SHEET NO.

I OF II







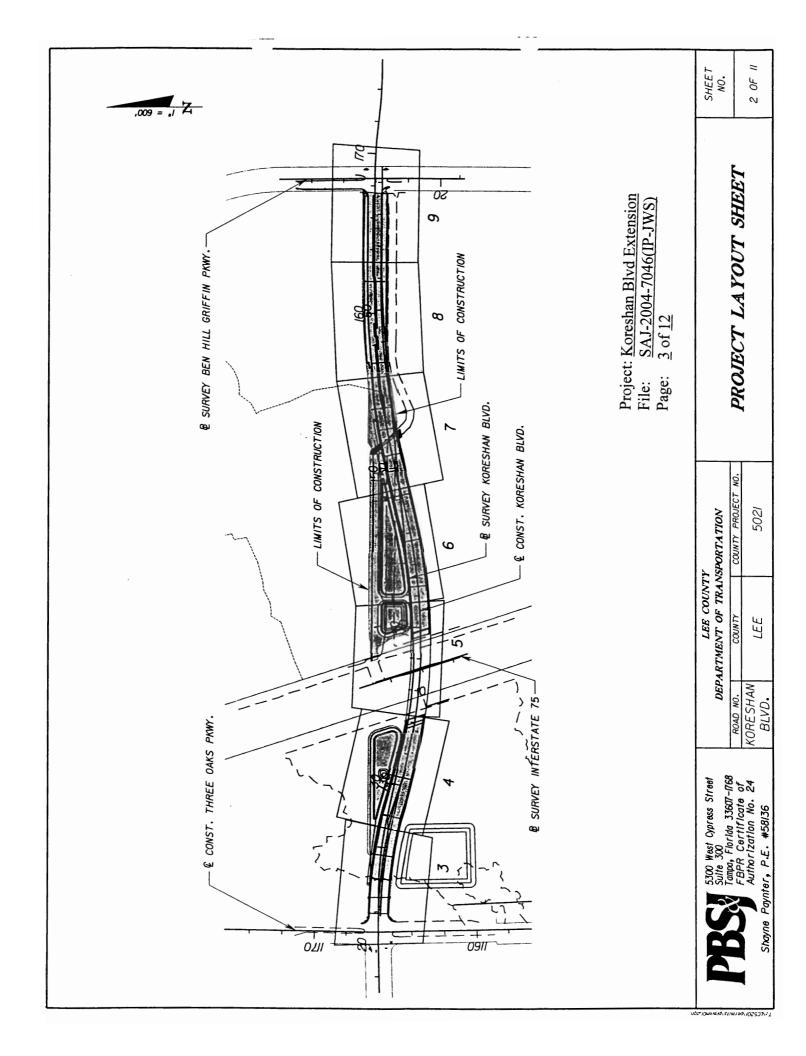
KORESHAN BOULEVARD EXTENSION CN-01-17

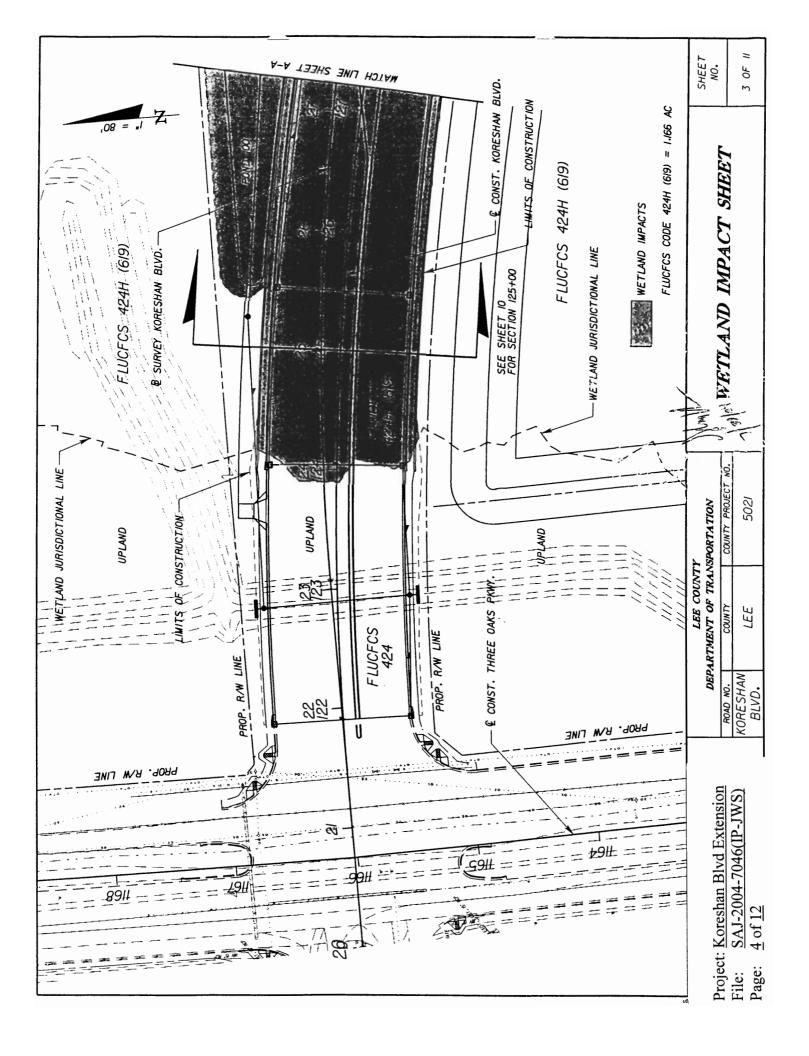
from Three Oaks Parkway to Ben Hill Griffin Parkway Lee County, Florida

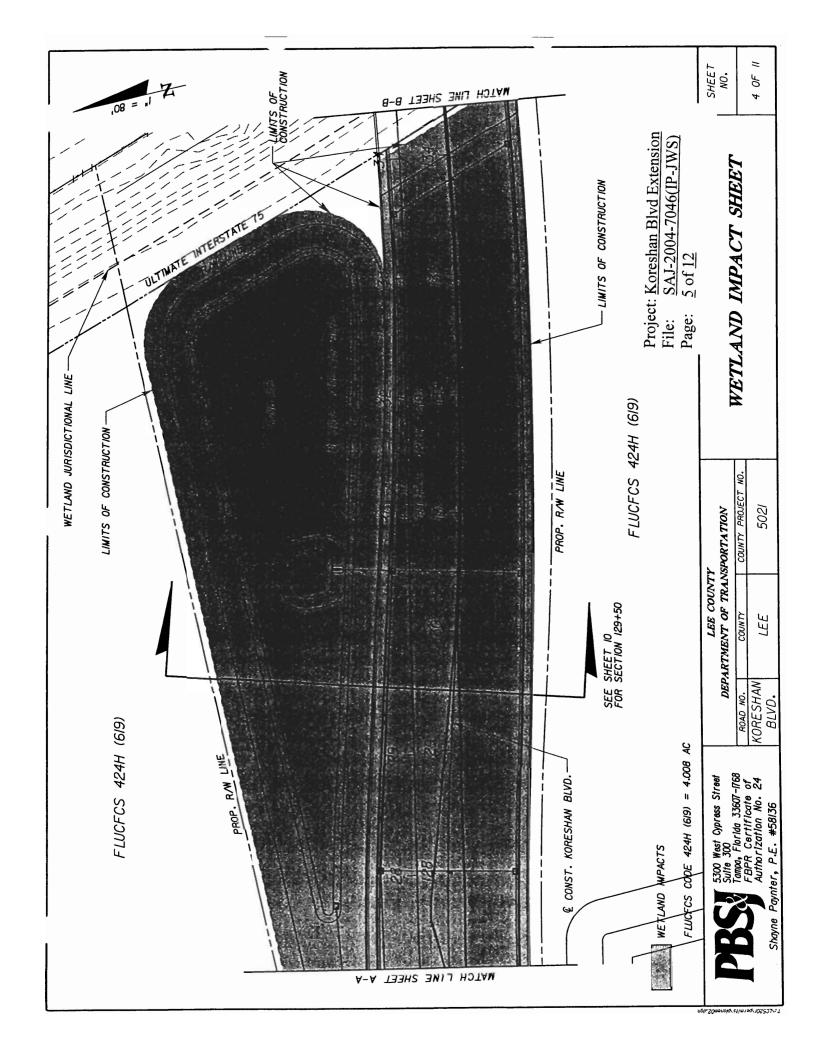
FIGURE 1-2

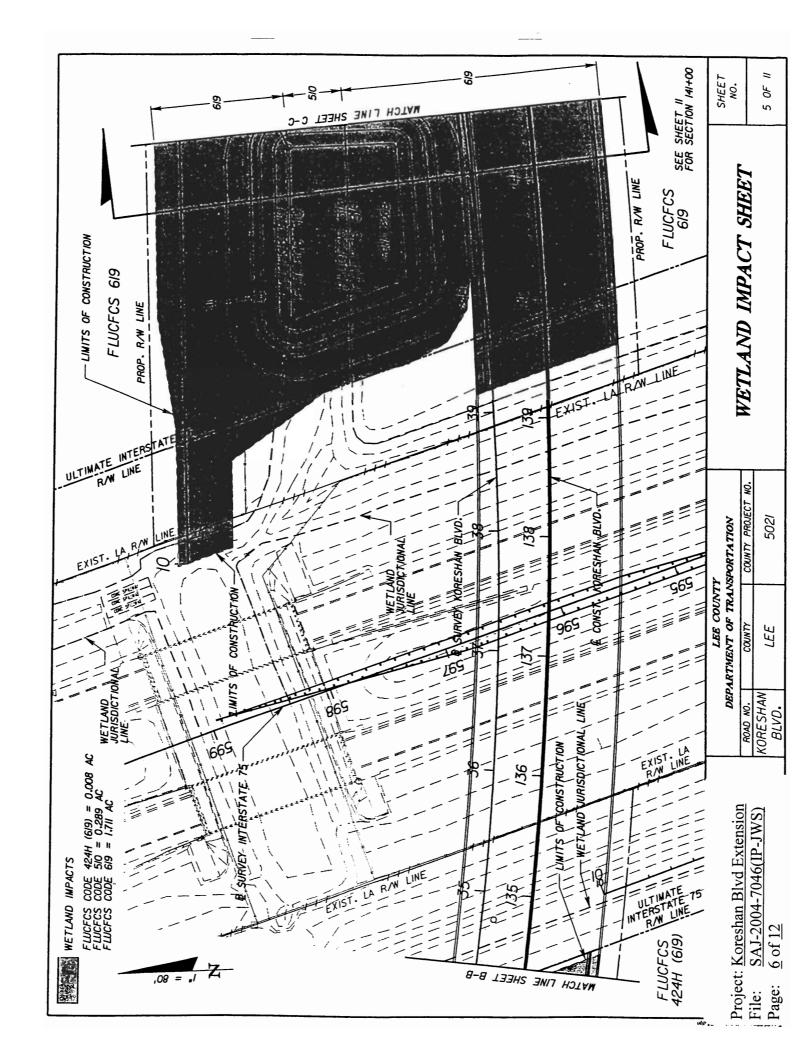
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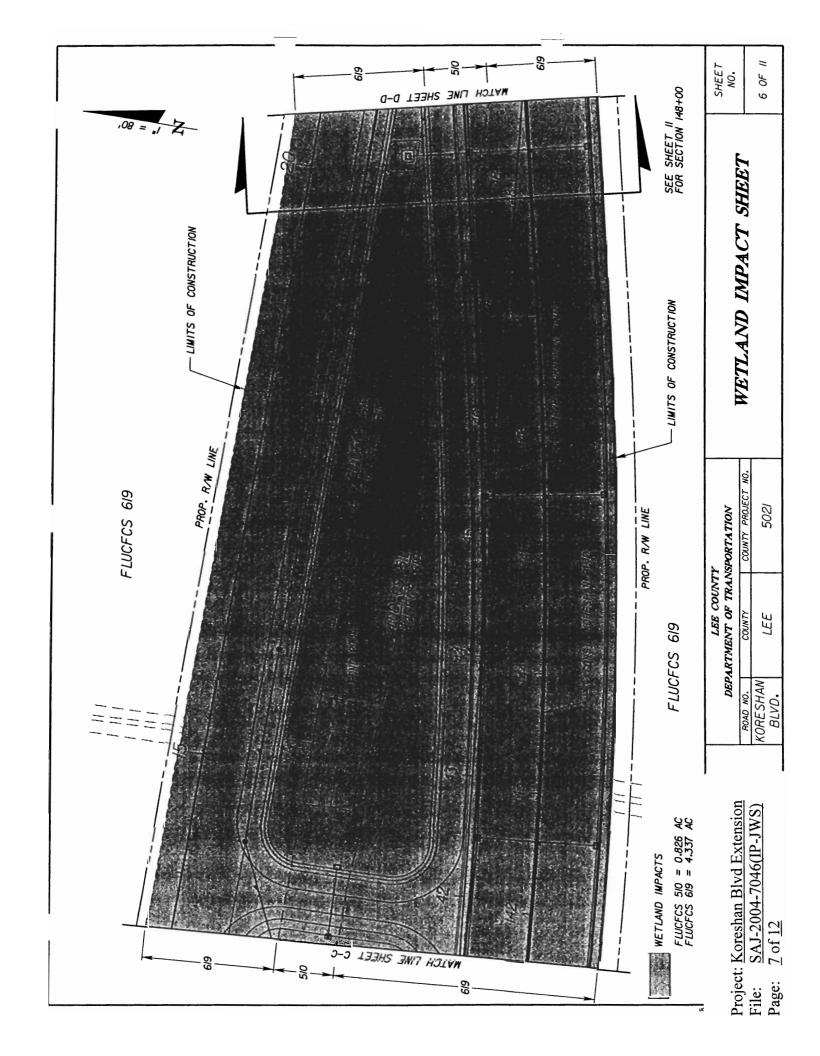
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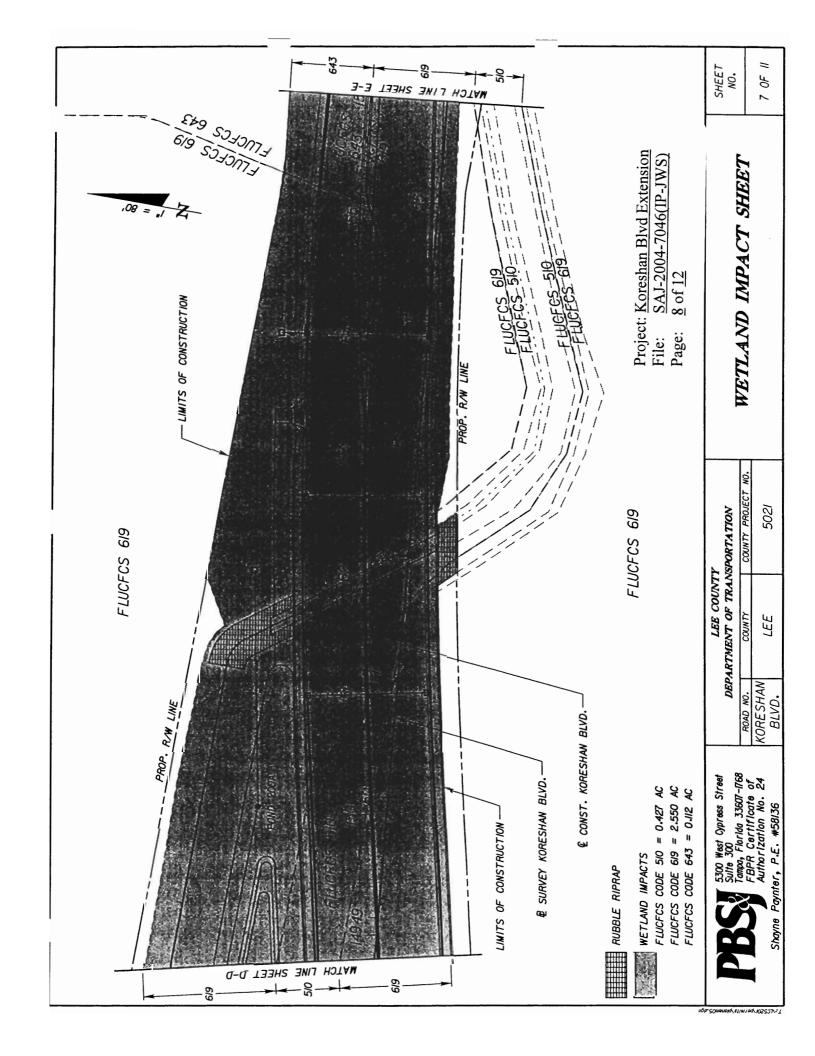


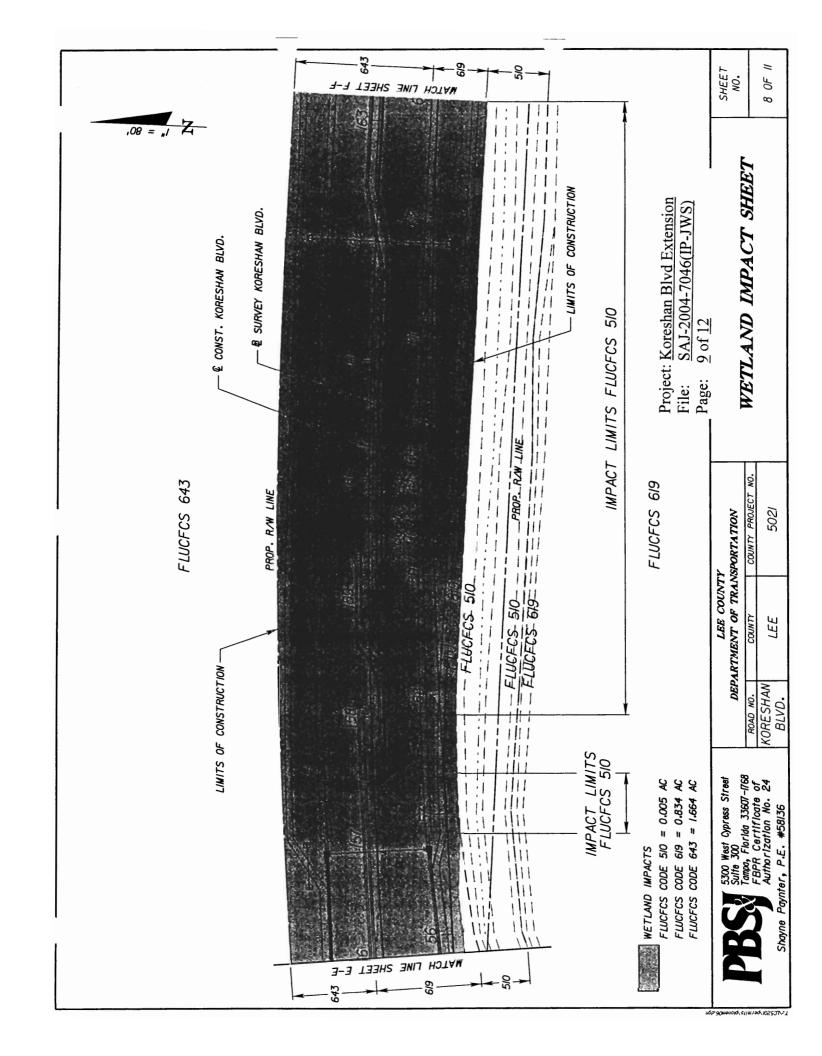


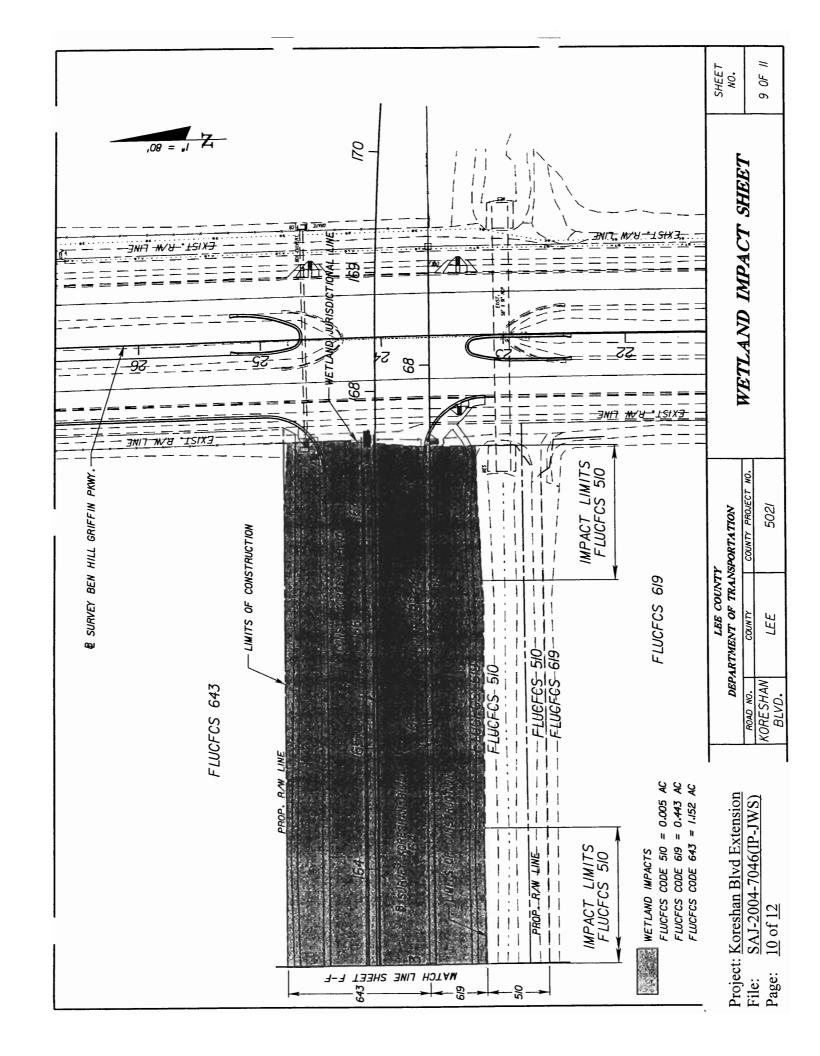


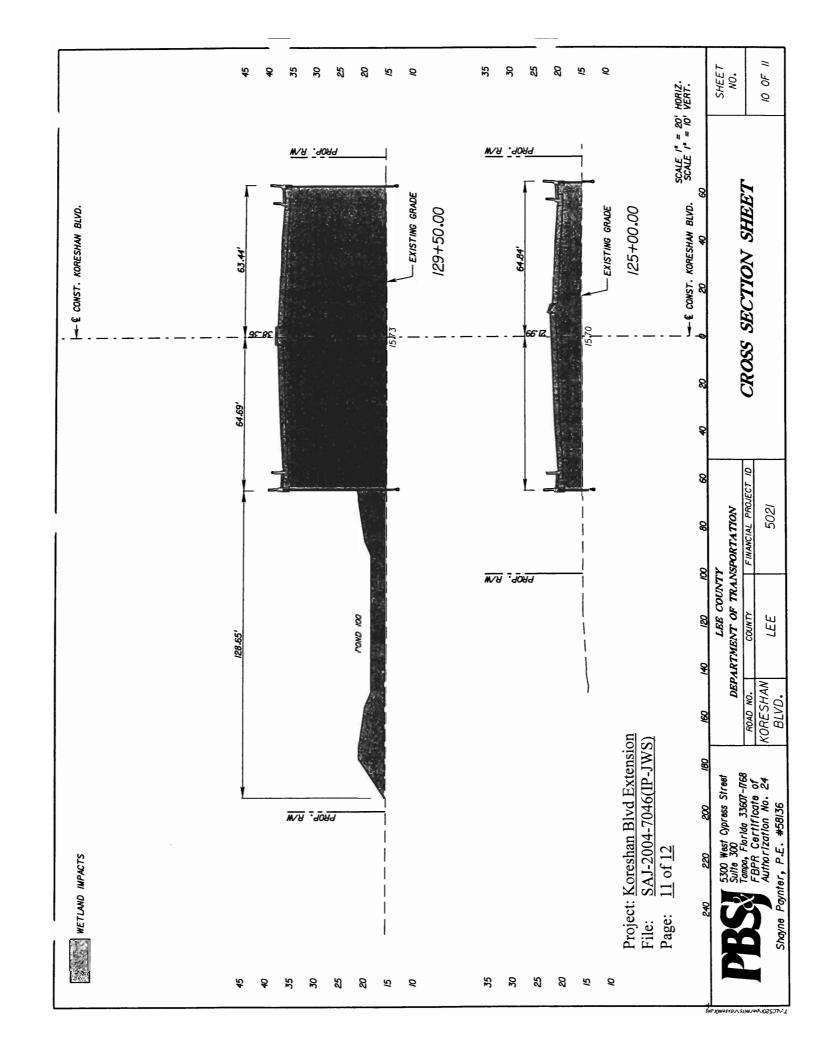


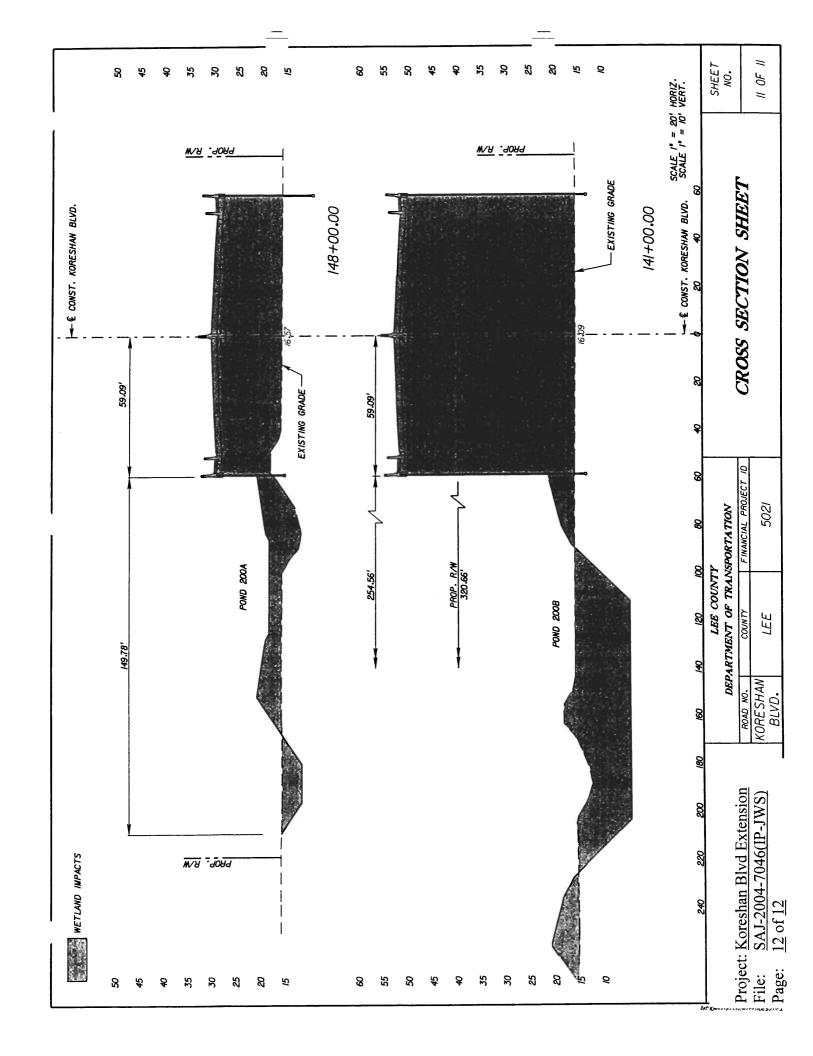












IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required. Coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Marine Fisheries Services, and other Federal, State, and local agencies, environmental groups, and concerned citizens generally yields pertinent environmental information that is instrumental in determining the impact the proposed action will have on the natural resources of the area. By means of this notice we are soliciting comments on the potential effects of the project on threatened or endangered species or their habitat.

IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties, or properties listed as eligible or inclusion therein, are located at the site of the proposed work. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act of the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine, Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make or deny this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY: In Florida, the State approval constitutes compliance with the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan. In Puerto Rico, a Coastal Zone Management Consistency Concurrence is required from the Puerto Rico Planning Board. In the Virgin Islands, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources permit constitutes compliance with approved Coastal Zone Management Plan.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the designated comment period of the notice and must state the specific reasons for requesting the public hearing.

Chief, Regulatory Division